

**To:** Acting Chairman and Authority Members      **Date:** July 20, 2001

**From:** Mehdi Morshed, Executive Director

**Subject:** **Agenda Item 6: Proposition 116 Application Authorization**

**Discussion**

Proposition 116, the Clean Air and Transportation Improvement Bond Act of 1990, appropriated \$5 million to the study of a high-speed passenger rail link between Bakersfield and Los Angeles. In 1993 the California Transportation Commission (CTC) approved resolution BFP-93-26 for the allocation of Prop 116 funds to Caltrans for the preliminary engineering and feasibility study of the corridor. The study was completed in 1994, on time and under budget, leaving a balance of \$519,000 in Prop 116 money for future work in the corridor.

The balance of the Prop 116 funds will be used to continue the screening process in an effort to reduce the number of alternatives to be studied in the next phase of the project EIR/EIS, as well as a study of the tunneling issue in this corridor which will undoubtedly have a statewide use not only for the Authority but for other agencies considering tunneling in the state.

In order for the CTC to allocate these funds to the Authority, staff will prepare an application that will outline how the funds will be utilized and the cash flow schedule. Additionally the Authority is required to seek approval from the Joint Legislative Budget Committee and the Department of Finance for the authorization of the increased budget expenditure authority.

**Recommendation**

The staff recommends the Authority delegate to the Executive Director the authority to submit an application to the CTC for the balance of the Prop 116 funds as well as submitting the necessary budget documents to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee and the Department of Finance.